

2010 was a productive year for the Nutrition Department, expanding its research focus to include intensive care clinical nutrition along with the established nutritional research areas of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and cardiovascular health.

Julia Price continued her research in HIV and the risk of lowered bone mineral density as a result of a high risk of vitamin D deficiency. In conjunction with Dr Ian Woolley from the Infectious Diseases Unit, she investigates the prevalence of metabolic syndrome, lipodystrophy and cardiovascular disease risk in an ambulant ageing HIV-infected male cohort. This study of 517 HIV patients found that a significant proportion of patients were vitamin D deficient (75%). Predictors included gender, country of birth, HIV duration, season, anti-retroviral agent exposure and alkaline phosphatase.

Emma Ridley continued her role as the Australasian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (AuSPEN) and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC) Nutrition Research Fellow (School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University).

Award

Ibolya Nyulasi was appointed a European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN) Faculty member, in recognition of her significant contribution within ESPEN for developing and improving the field of clinical nutrition and metabolism.

New Research Position

Dr Audrey Tierney was appointed as one of the inaugural ICU research fellows for 6-12 months to investigate the use of metabolic cart measurements of resting metabolic rate versus current practice in estimating energy requirements of ICU patients.

Current Projects

- Are individuals with HIV and darker skin pigmentation at risk of lowered bone mineral density, and further HIV disease progression due to high risk of vitamin D deficiency? (Julia Price)
- Prevalence of metabolic syndrome, lipodystrophy and cardiovascular disease risk in an ambulant ageing HIV-infected male cohort (Julia Price, Emma Ridley)
- Can a modified fat diet with low glycaemic load improve insulin sensitivity and inflammatory mediators in overweight people with cardiac failure? (Suzannah Jackson, Rachel Stoney)
- A randomised controlled study of a pre-operative intervention in patients with diabetes undergoing cardiac surgery (Rachel Stoney and Sue Wyatt, Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes)
- POLAR BEAR: the Prophylactic hypOthermia trial to Lessen trAumatic bRain injury Basal Energy Assessment Research (Emma Ridley, Ibolya Nyulasi)

Research Achievements

Julia Price – oral presentation ‘Traditional and HIV – related factors of vitamin D insufficiency in Melbourne, Australia’ presented at the European Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition meeting in Nice, France, and the Australian Society of HIV Medicine Meeting in Sydney.

Emma Ridley – recipient of the \$20,000 Alfred Trusts Allied Health Grant in 2010 for POLAR BEAR – the Prophylactic hypOthermia trial to Lessen trAumatic bRain injury Basal Energy Assessment Research.

Kathryn Collins – poster presentation at the European Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition meeting entitled ‘Complication rates of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) versus radiologically inserted gastrostomy (RIG) insertion at an Australian tertiary referral hospital’.

Ibolya Nyulasi – invited speaker at the combined Gastroenterological Society of Australia and AuSPEN 2010 conference on the topics of malnutrition and quality services in PEG care.



Associate Professor Ibolya Nyulasi was appointed a European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism Faculty member.

Postgraduate Students

1 PhD Student
3 Masters Students

Publications

6 Journal Articles